

# The Semaphore

A Publication of the TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Issue 216

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OUR 2017 VALENTINE TO THE HILL

# A TALE OF ONE KIWI AND TWO CONURES

by Brigid McCormick

If you think Telegraph Hill is known around the world for its spectacular view, its poets and artists, or even Coit Tower...guess again. Thanks to Judy Irving and Mark Bittner, it's the parrots that make the Hill famous. I was living in New Zealand when I saw their film *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, and it changed my life.

After September 11, I'd defiantly proclaimed that I would never set foot in the States again. Homeland Security's new biometric identification screening system offended every sensibility I had. I would never submit to such an Orwellian invasion of my privacy! Then I saw the film and all my pronouncements went right out the window. Here was a wonderful man devoting his life to the care of a flock of maniacal wild birds, and—



At cinemas around the world, it's the parrots!

PHOTO © JUDY IRVING

just as extraordinary—supported by the community around him. THAT was the way the world should be!

In 2014 I bought a one-way ticket to San Francisco—never mind my job, my house, my life back home in New Zealand. I aimed for quasi-affordable SOMA, since the highly de\$irable Hill was beyond my dreams. But without any effort on my part, an apartment presented itself. In fact it was the ONLY apartment to present itself, and it was at the top of Telegraph Hill! I couldn't believe my luck, and I could hardly believe my ears. The day I moved in the parrots were outside screeching.

I put wild bird seed out on my deck straightaway and sure enough, they came by, but they didn't stop. I put more out—same story. They did fly-bys, they got close, but they never stopped. So I contacted Mickaboo Bird Rescue, a nonprofit organization that rescues, cares for, and finds foster homes for injured wild parrots,



One of the cutest pairs of Telegraph Hill conures is Monty and Beale. Both have neurological disorders and are a little wobbly, but they can perch and climb, and Beale can fly short distances. They're looking for a forever home where they'll be loved as much as they love each other. Being back on their beloved Hill would be their dream!

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICKABOO

to find out why. Chloë Redon explained that cherry-headed conures LOVE sunflower seeds, but don't much care for



Julian with his leg in a cast. PHOTO © BRIGID MCCORMICK

regular “wild bird seed.” No sunflowers, no stopping. Aha. But the issue with sunflower seeds, she said, is that they are very low in calcium. This means that if the birds gorge on them and forget about eating fruit, nuts, blossoms, and such, their babies will be born with bones too brittle to bear the weight of their tiny bodies.

That was Sanchez' sad story. He was found when he was only a tiny chick. Mickaboo's Conure team did everything possible for the poor little guy, but to no avail. He died, and when the vet performed a necropsy his little bones just disintegrated between the vet's fingers.

With the promise to Mickaboo of a sunflower-seed-



Oh, those yummy sunflower seeds!

PHOTO © M. BRUCE GROSJEAN

free diet, I decided to foster-with-a-view-to-adopting a pair of the disabled conures from the Telegraph Hill flock—Mooshi and Julian, a bonded pair. Neither can fly more than a few yards without crashing, due to a neurological disorder which plagues many of the disabled parrots. Vets are perplexed as to the cause but believe it's due to eating rat poison. And Julian had the extra problem of brittle bones. When he first arrived at Mickaboo he had a broken hip, which took a year of calcium enriched food to knit back properly. Once it healed, he almost immediately broke his leg!

Chloë and her partner John brought Julian and Mooshi over, and when we put them out on the deck they were ecstatically happy and screeched blue murder. Local family members heard the call, flew into a tree close by and screeched back, which was exactly what we'd hoped for. If you're a disabled Cherry Head and you can't be with the flock, surely the next best thing is to be on The Hill and have your family nearby!

But despite plants and flowers, a view over the city, and wild birds to watch, Mooshi and Julian were absolutely miserable. They spent most of their



Parrot camouflage.

PHOTO © STAN TENG

time frozen motionless in fear. The problem was the local hawks who stop in a tree close by. Mooshi was especially traumatized, as she'd arrived at Mickaboo with a horribly large wound in her beak which the vet said was caused by a hawk's talon. The little bird's terror was completely understandable. Conures are standard fare for hawks. There was nothing I could do to allay their fear that the hawk was going to break into the apartment and murder them. At the end of two stressful weeks, back they went to Mickaboo.



Mooshi with injured beak.

PHOTO © BRIGID MCCORMICK

Happily, they have a new home now, not on The Hill. It didn't work out for me because my deck height is eyeball to eyeball with the hawks, but that was my bad luck. It is very unlikely to be yours. There are other birds from the local flock looking for homes. Take Alma, a little blind baby: she was found at the top of the Vallejo Steps in a gutter where she had been for a couple of days without food or water. We can only guess at her story.

As a Hill Dweller please consider adopting Alma, or a pair of these wonderful creatures. Right now, Mickaboo has eight bonded pairs of Cherry Heads from the Telegraph Hill flock along with two single birds, all in need of loving homes. To read about these crazy and entertaining little critters see:

<http://legacy.mickaboo.org:81/our-birds/species-22.html>



A three-parrot huddle on the Hill.

PHOTO © M. BRUCE GROSJEAN



The flock is fond of fire escapes.

PHOTO © JULIE JAYCOX





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Stan Hayes, President  
Stan.Hayes@THD.org

It's 2017! Though last year may have had more than the usual ups and downs, we're lucky to be here, savoring once again the start of a New Year in this special place. Here's hoping that you and yours had a wonderful Holiday Season, full of warmth, cheer, friends, and family. And, oh, yes...food! Even with gym payback sessions looming large, there's nothing like 10,000-calorie-a-day living. Wishing you all the very best in 2017!

Last issue, I told you our website is being redesigned and updated with an all-new look and functionality that we hope you'll like and find useful. While still a work-in-progress, the website is up and running and awaiting your feedback. At *THD.org*, you'll find the latest *News & Events*, read *Featured Posts* on especially interesting stories, and see past issues of *The Semaphore*.

Through our home page organized around the goals of the *THD Mission*, you'll find *Samplings* of what we've been doing on your behalf and read *Related Updates & Efforts* on current activities. You'll find more *About Us*, including a *Telegraph Hill Neighborhood History* and a *History of THD*, as well as our *Oral History* project. You'll also find out how to *Join, Renew, Donate* to THD, *Get Involved* in THD committees, *Contact Us*, see a roster of our *Officers and Directors*, and read *THD's Bylaws*.

I hope you'll take *THD.org* out for a test drive. Let me know what you think at *Stan.Hayes@THD.org*



Visit our redesigned website at *THD.org* — in color!

\* \* \*

Now, following the tradition of this column, here's a sampling of THD highlights since our last issue, with CAPITAL letters matching each item with a goal in our mission statement.

We **BUILT COMMUNITY** by holding a lively and festive annual Holiday Celebration, once again at Original Joe's. Hope you were able to join us! Nearly eighty of our oldest, newest, and not-yet-met THD



Zach Stewart accepts his award at the Holiday Party  
PHOTO © MARY ANN SCANLAN

friends enjoyed a warm and inviting atmosphere, great conversation, holiday cheer, renowned OJ appetizers, and excellent wine generously donated by Cole Hardware's Rick Karp and his family. Who knew that hardware-store-labeled wine could be so good? We're excited that Cole Hardware is moving into the old Rossi's/Piazza Market location, returning a neighborhood-serving business to that site once again.

We **CELEBRATED HISTORY AND TRADITIONS** by honoring at our Holiday Celebration two exceptionally deserving persons who have made outstanding contributions to our community. Supervisor Aaron Peskin presented the 2016 Outstanding Contribution to the Neighborhood Award to Gerry Crowley and the 2016 Heritage of the Hill Award to Zach Stewart and Canessa Gallery. A former four-term (!) THD president, Gerry was honored (see p. 3) for her inspiring example of how local activism can lead to outstanding achievements for the public good. Founder Zach Stewart was honored (see p. 6) for making Canessa Gallery a hub of North Beach activism and art, showcasing and supporting over the last fifty years more than 600 new, emerging, and established sculptors, painters, photographers, and performance and literary artists.

We also continued to support the City's Legacy Business program. To date, venerated area businesses placed on the City's Legacy Business Registry include Caffe Trieste, City Lights, Macchiarini Creative Design & Metalworks, Pier 23 Café, and Specs, with Canessa Gallery nominated and soon to follow.



A lavish holiday spread at Original Joe's.  
PHOTO © JULIE JAYCOX

We **BEAUTIFIED AND IMPROVED** by joining in efforts to restore landscaping at Coit Tower, improve signage and public display of its historical collection, and develop a possible WiFi-supported app for visitors. We continued to participate in the planning process to improve Washington Square Park, including further development of plans for the park's perimeter and children's playground. We continued to work with



THD celebrates Gerry Crowley's service to the Hill & City.  
PHOTO © MARY ANN SCANLAN



Thanks from THD to the Krebs family for donating wine for our Holiday Party.  
PHOTO © JULIE JAYCOX

the Port to improve access signage for public open space at the Pier 27 Cruise Terminal, including providing feedback on the design and siting of temporary wayfinding graphics installed at various points near the terminal.

We **PROTECTED UNIQUE CHARACTER** by continuing to oppose a large-sized multi-unit residential project at 115 Telegraph Hill Boulevard, adjacent to Coit Tower's Pioneer Park (see p. 7), joining with other neighbors in a legal appeal against project approvals and challenging the project developer on their proposed plans for managing the more than two years of construction. Especially concerning is their plan to stage cement trucks (129 in total) immediately next to Garfield Elementary School and its schoolchildren and obstruct fire and other emergency access to the neighborhood.

THD board members continued a detailed review of the Planning Department's rewrite of Article 7 of the Planning Code, which governs neighborhood commercial districts (NCDs). Efforts focused particularly on aspects of Article 7 that affect the North Beach NCD, with detailed comments submitted to City staff.

We continued our efforts on the proposed Vallejo Street piazza. THD strongly supports the concept of public open space in our neighborhood. We cannot endorse, though, the permanent closure of Vallejo Street, one of the few east/west arteries that serves as essential vehicular access, both for the several hundred families who rely on it and for the nearby merchant community. We continue to hope, however, that an alternative design, such as that offered by a THD board member, can be developed that avoids closure of Vallejo Street while retaining core features of a piazza/open space.

We **ENGAGED IN CITY AFFAIRS** by continuing our efforts to work with the Planning Department, the Port, developers, and others regarding the Teatro ZinZanni theatre/hotel project, the 88 Broadway affordable housing project, and the Jamestown Pier 29 bulkhead retail project. We also continued our efforts to work with Planning Department on draft Urban Design Guidelines which the Department says, when adopted, will govern design review of new projects throughout the City; with the SFMTA on updates to the Residential Parking Permit Program that will affect local A-Sticker residents; and with the Port on their ongoing update to the Waterfront Land Use Plan and its effect on development along the Northeastern Waterfront.

THD members continued to serve on community groups that include the Coit Tower Working Group, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, the Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group, the Waterfront Plan Working Group, the Waterfront Plan Land Use Advisory Team, the SFPD's Central Station's Community Police Advisory Board, and the Friends of Washington Square.

\* \* \*

Again, let me know at *Stan.Hayes@THD.org* how you think we're doing. What we're doing well, what we need to do better, or what you wish we were doing.



# OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AWARD TO

# GERRY CROWLEY

## A ONE-WOMAN ARMY FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND CITY



Supervisor Aaron Peskin & THD President Stan Hayes congratulate Gerry on her award. PHOTO © MARY ANN SCANLAN

by Nancy Shanahan

Gerry Crowley was honored at THD’s annual holiday party for her inspiring example of how local activism can lead to outstanding achievements for the public good. A former four-term president of THD, Gerry has consistently and tirelessly demonstrated true dedication as a protector of the unique character of North Beach and Telegraph Hill, our parks and open spaces and waterfront. Gerry’s extraordinary community leadership and political involvement provides inspiration to all people who engage in public service.

Gerry grew up in the hamlet of Chappaqua, New York in the township of New Castle. She credits her parents, who were exceptionally active in their community, as the models for her future activism. In her words:

*As a result of the enthusiasm our parents had for volunteerism, my brothers and I spent many years contributing to our chosen communities and causes. I have always believed that giving to others is its own reward and yet I accept formal recognition with grace and humility. Volunteering with like-minded others has been a great joy, as have been the lifelong friendships.*

Gerry moved from New York to San Francisco in 1959. Since that time she has lived within a three-block radius of her first apartment at 409 Lombard Street. Early on she started dating her future husband Sam S. Crowley, Jr. and together they indulged in the good life North Beach had to offer—George Shearing at The Black Hawk, Duke Ellington at Basin Street West, and Lenny Bruce at Enrico Banducci’s club, the hungry i.

In 1986, she saw a THD spokesperson interviewed on TV about the proliferation of financial institutions in North Beach that were moving in from the Financial District. That same year, after talking to folks at THD’s booth at the North Beach Festival, she filled out a membership application.

Starting as THD’s social chair, then as a board member, Gerry served four separate terms as president, always fighting to preserve and protect the historical character of our neighborhood—keeping Rite Aid from locating on Washington Square and chain stores from invading North Beach. She also initiated THD’s oral history project to record the histories of unique North Beach characters.

Dedicated to improving our parks, Gerry served as a member of the Pioneer Park Restoration Committee, the Friends of Washington Square, and the Fay Park

Advisory Board.

But Gerry’s generosity has not been confined to the boundaries of THD. As an activist on many political and community fronts to benefit the City she loves, Gerry co-founded the Neighborhood Network, comprising a group of 20 citizens from all parts of San Francisco, to meet with City department heads, commissioners, and other officials on issues critical to neighborhood residents. For many years she represented THD on the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN) and served on nonprofit boards including Northeast San Francisco Conservancy, Pelican Media, and the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, where she served as president for two of her six years on that board.

Meanwhile, she found time to tutor ESL students at Galileo High School and to serve on the Community Police Advisory Board.

On the political front, Gerry’s involvement has been extensive. In 2000, when the City had its first district elections, she was the one who cajoled then-THD President Aaron Peskin into running for supervisor. During the campaign, she maintained his calendar and drove him to campaign events, then stepped back into the THD presidency when Aaron won the District 3 board seat.

In 2004 and again in 2006, Gerry was elected to the Democratic County Central Committee, serving as its Vice-Chair. Among the political organizations of which she’s been an active member are the District 3 Democratic Club, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Chinese American Democratic Club, Irish American Democratic Club, San Francisco Women’s Political Committee, and National Women’s Political Caucus.

### Past Awards:

**Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year** award by the Democratic Women’s Forum

**Sue Bierman Lifetime Achievement Award for Neighborhood Activism** from the SF Democratic Party

**Certificates of Recognition** from the California State Senate (Leno) and the California State Assembly (Ammiano)

**Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Activism** from the Neighborhood Empowerment Network

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors designated September 13, 2009, Gerry’s 75th birthday, as Gerry Crowley Day.



Fun for all at the Holiday Party.

PHOTO © JULIE JAYCOX





## DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR REPORT

by Aaron Peskin

**T**hank you for re-electing me to my fourth term as Supervisor of District 3. Looking back over this past year, I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. I co-authored legislation mandating some of the highest affordability requirements in the country; I pledged to take on the short-term rental industry, and helped pass commonsense regulations, which other cities are now considering to protect their housing stock. I placed a moratorium on converting our invaluable single resident occupancy hotels (SROs), the only form of housing for some of our lowest income residents living on fixed incomes. We passed citywide accessory dwelling unit legislation to create upward of 30,000 potential new units of rent-controlled housing. I've taken on "corporados" like Airbnb, the Academy of Art, and Millennium Partners, and challenged government excess and mismanagement. I passed campaign finance reforms to eliminate politicians' slush funds. And as the new Chair of the SF County Transportation Authority, I am calling on our State Legislative Delegation to do the critical work of finally regulating Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft to protect the safety of our San Francisco residents and stop the congestion choking our streets.

### The People Speak: The November 2016 Election

This past November, with the support of 76 percent of the electorate, we passed a \$261 million affordable housing preservation bond—*without raising taxes*. Indeed, Proposition C was the *only* measure on the ballot

that actually addressed our affordable housing crisis—and the only measure requiring a two-thirds majority vote that actually passed. And we roundly repudiated attempts by the San Francisco Association of Realtors to halt and reduce affordable housing in San Francisco by saying no to Propositions P and U with a 2:1 vote. San Francisco remains a beacon of sentient thought.

Voters sent other messages to City Hall as well. With a 67 percent vote for Proposition J, San Franciscans let us know that the City should be treating homelessness as the critical public health issue it is, with comprehensive health services and a real homeless-to-housing plan. In the same breath, they shot down the regressive sales tax measure Proposition K, which barely eked out 34 percent of the vote. With a \$9.6 billion budget and a ballot full of set-asides, the message was clear: voters want City Hall to start taking the budget process seriously, develop a real plan, and prioritize homelessness with the public dollars we have. Voters overwhelmingly supported a luxury real estate transfer tax in order to fund Free City College for San Franciscans—and at the Board of Supervisors we voted to fulfill that promise to the voters 10 to 1. San Franciscans also required tougher restrictions on lobbyists, a clear indicator that voters are tired of pay-to-play politics and the outside influence of special interests in our democracy.

### The Role of Dark Money

At the state level, special interests poured a record \$24 million into California lawmaker races, with the real estate lobby, large corporations, and charter schools flexing their political muscle—a trend projected to continue breaking records. In San Francisco, the dark money from tech titans like Ron Conway and Airbnb was primarily used to bolster friendly choices in key supervisorial districts and on ballot measures. Voters struggled to wade through millions of dollars of negative noise and mixed messages. On the one hand, we were told that we could only solve homelessness by passing a regressive sales tax, even as a progressive tech tax revenue measure was shot down at the board. Some \$750,000 was spent on demonizing the homeless with the ugly Proposition Q, because certain opportunistic politicians needed a platform for their vitriol.



Zach Stewart accepts his Heritage of the Hill award from Supervisor Peskin at THD's Holiday Party.

PHOTO © MARY ANN SCANLAN

### Ready for Spring

All in all, 2016 had its legislative and electoral victories and setbacks, not the least of which is a Trump presidency empowered by a radical right-wing Congress. I think many of us are ready for the advent of spring—and a little rebirth.

As we plan for the days ahead and recommit ourselves to community and life, I cannot help but think of those who have been a part of this commitment for many years and were taken from us in 2016. They are the everyday San Franciscans, colorful characters and local legends who inspired and pushed us to be better. They were people deeply in love with San Francisco, who believed in the truth of "the beautiful struggle"—and I am saddened that we will not have them by our side for the work ahead. They will certainly be in my thoughts and I'll continue to turn to past conversations and their living friends and family for reminders of why I do the work I do—and why I love San Francisco so much.

With that in mind, I'm dedicating the work of 2017 to people like Paul Kantner, Eileen Hansen, Judith Liteky, June Osterberg, Adolph Capurro, Specs Simmons, Stu Jackson, Lily Yee, Wayne Friday, Laurie Katsamberis, Helen Miramontes, Warren Hinckle, Delia Fleishhacker Ehrlich, Denise Dorio, Zelda Gordon, Sylvia McLaughlin, Bud Zisson, Robert McCambridge, Nate Thurmond, Sun Choi Law, Albert Chin, Pat Christensen, H. Welton Flynn, Saul Bloom, "Papa Gianni" Giotta, Mary Beth Marks, Percy Pinkney, Rogene Radner, Roy Mottini, Miss Rose Pak—and the many more that make San Francisco the courageous kaleidoscope we love.

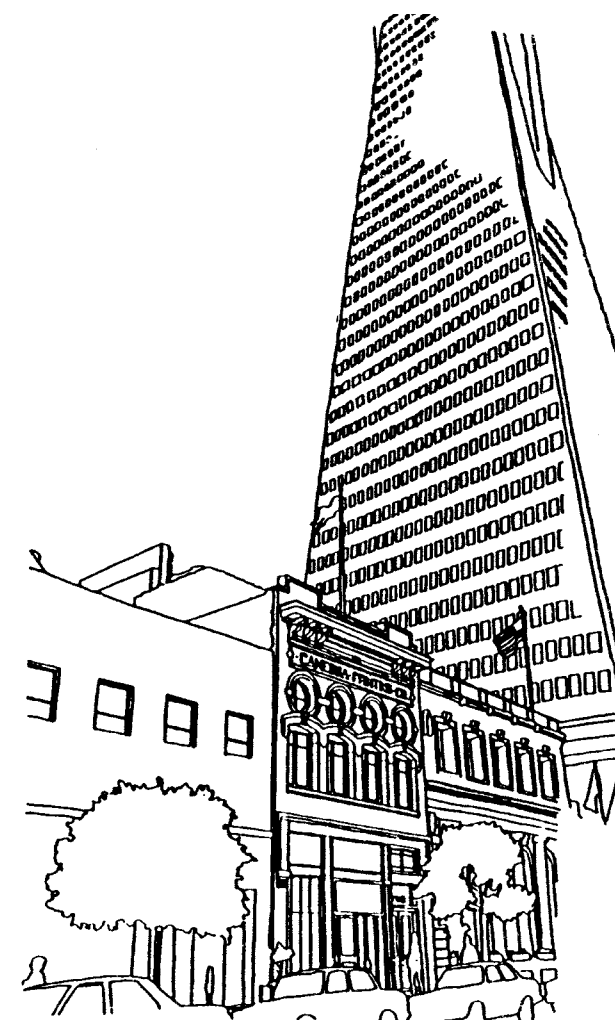
You can reach us at 415-554-7450 or [peskinstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:peskinstaff@sfgov.org). Or email me directly at [aaron.peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:aaron.peskin@sfgov.org). See you around the neighborhood!



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## ART & CULTURE REPORT

by Romalyn Schmaltz, Committee Chair  
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Autumn was a busy season for the THD Art and Culture Committee, and I thank all of you who joined us for any of the three events we hosted to round out this rather eventful year.

In mid-October we hosted our first staged reading, at the North Beach Bauhaus, of member Richard Slota's new play *Mascularity*.

As the November election drew near, we gathered again at the North Beach Bauhaus for a bracing discussion of the roughly thirty—and sometimes-byzantine—local ballot measures, led by Supervisor Aaron Peskin. The crowd's consensus afterwards was serious, yet—perhaps because of the discussion leader—spirited. Most walked away feeling more confident that



Rapt for *Zapped: an Edgar Rowdey Cape Cod Mystery* at Canessa Gallery.

PHOTO © JULIE JAYCOX

they understood the language of the tangle of propositions set before us. Many marveled at how our elected legislative leader can so readily and digestibly divest the issues of any murkiness. Aaron offered a clear, non-partisan picture of what's really at stake, without notes,

a microphone, or even a stage, joining us for over two hours of truly neighborly engagement that ended in lots of questions and answers, but also much laughter and many hugs. More than a few folks walked away saying, "This! This is why I live in North Beach!"

The night before Halloween found Canessa Gallery festooned in cobwebs and spiders for a book-launch Halloween party, as the THD Social and Art & Culture committees welcomed Semaphore editor Carol Verburg to read vignettes from her new mystery *Zapped*. Costumes, decor, and demeanor tended toward the Edwardian—fitting, since *Zapped* (like *Croaked* in the same series) takes place on Cape Cod and features a sleuth based on Carol's frequent collaborator, dark-humored illustrator and fellow Cape Cod writer Edward Gorey. Longtime THD board member Julie Jaycox and Social Committee Chair Marilee Gaffney did much of the heavy lifting, including securing delectable donations from local candy gurus Z Cioccolata. The evening ended with a group reading of Gorey's tale of youthful doom *The Gashlycrumb Tinies*. While Carol sold her last copy that night, you can purchase *Zapped* and her other mystery novels from any bookstore or at <http://carolverburg.com>.

On Sunday, December 11, at our annual holiday party at Original Joe's, we were proud to celebrate two long-standing and outstanding contributors to our local art and culture. Zach Stewart and Canessa Gallery was the 2016 recipient of our Heritage of the Hill award, and 4-time THD president Gerry Crowley received our Outstanding Contribution to the Neighborhood certificate (see story on p. 3).

Zach Stewart opened his non-profit neighborhood art gallery, Canessa Art Gallery (708 Montgomery Street), in 1966. An architect, conservationist, and environmentalist, Zach is often locally thought of as North Beach's link to John Muir. His stripe of activism stems from a time that was, indeed, full of activity rather than rhetoric, and one of the many ways he made good on his stand was to generously create a space for artists who—ever imperiled as they are by shortages of

work and exhibition room—needed a break, or a wall, or a patron. Along with his tireless and ebullient wife, Annie, he's created a warm, wood-and-brick, pre-Earthquake haven for over 600 artists, and his door remains open for those who'd like to stop in and chat, peruse whatever exhibit is on the wall, or even arrange to be included in the next half-century of Canessa's legacy.

Zach and Canessa also recently received a Proclamation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. You can read more about Zach and the Canessa Gallery's 50th Anniversary Party in the Fall 2016 issue of The Semaphore (see our website, [thd.org](http://thd.org), if you've lost your copy). In a village of living legends, the North Beach activist pack continues to be led by folks like Zach.

Coming Soon: While the first winter months of the year tend to be a slow, regenerative season, please keep an eye on your email and our website, [thd.org](http://thd.org), for THD event announcements. And don't forget the Semaphore Bulletin Board (p 13).



C J Verburg reads from her new novel at THD's Halloween book-launch party.

PHOTO © JULIE JAYCOX

## MASCULARITY: THD HELPS REVIVE NORTH BEACH THEATER

by Richard Slota

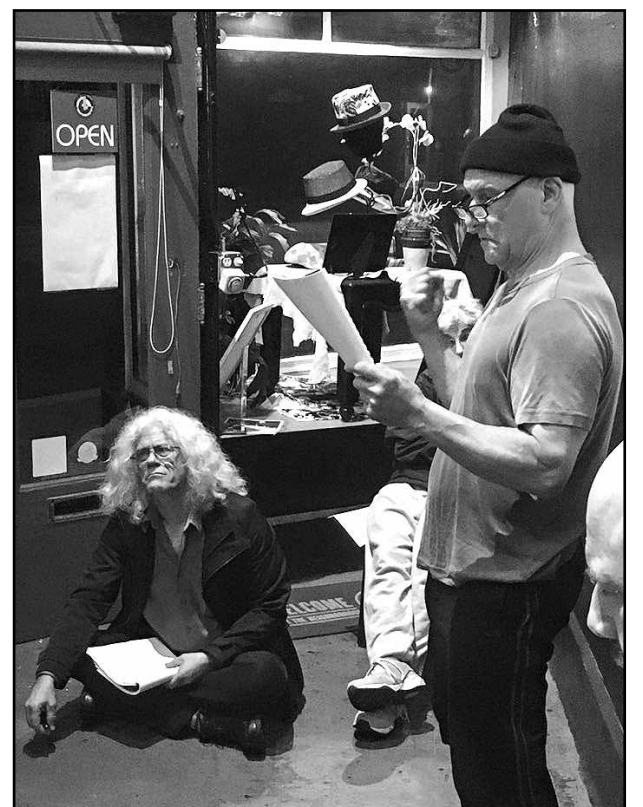
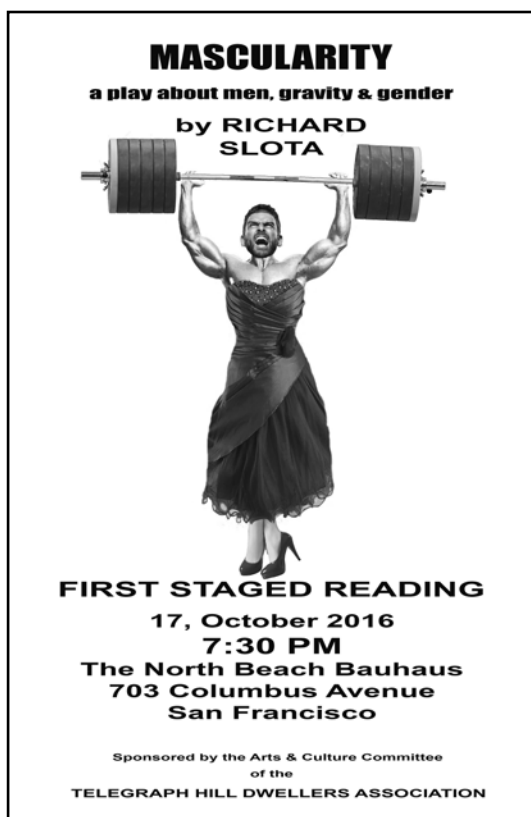
If it's true that the Fall staged reading of my play *Mascularity* is the first one THD ever sponsored, I hope it's the first of many. Thank you to the Art & Culture Committee and its chair, Romalyn Schmaltz, who offered her North Beach Bauhaus as a venue. For me as a playwright, THD's support for *Mascularity* has been a great honor and morale booster.

As THD members know, we live in a neighborhood that's legendary for its arts and its support for artists. The popularity of improv in American theater began here in the 1960's, at 622 Broadway, with a group called The Committee, whose descendents include Saturday Night Live. My experience with *Mascularity*—access to stellar local actors, a gallery space, a receptive audience, and backing from THD—argue for more events like this as a way to carry out THD's mission of community building and preservation of North Beach's unique identity.

All writers put words on a page, but playwrights face an additional hurdle: finding

money and collaborators with specific skill sets to dramatize the words in front of a live audience. I was extremely fortunate to recruit a great director, William Thomas Hodgson, who directed a great group of local actors: Greg Amici, Thomas Cokenias, Margherita Ventura, Brian Vouglas, and Don Hardwick. The cast rehearsed twice at the Bauhaus, and then we opened for a single performance on Monday, October 17. Why Monday? In the theater, that's the one night of the week when professional theaters are dark and actors are available.

The staged reading taught me a lot about how to get *Mascularity* up on its legs for the next step: a full-scale production. For example, it confirmed that the play's setting, a grungy blue-collar gym bleeding customers, is a near perfect location to write about toxic masculinity's self-destructiveness. If you missed it, *Mascularity* tells the story of the world's second-strongest man and his motley crew of hangers on and wanna-be's. Buff's obsession is to defeat the strongest man at an upcoming competition. He's stoked but distracted by two surprises: Barbie, the "babe" of the gym, turns her attention his



Playwright Richard Slota watches the *Mascularity* cast read his new play.

way; and his rival is revealed as not the man Buff and his buddies idealized.

Look for the fully staged production of *Mascularity* in theaters—and the first staged reading of my next play, about two homeless guys who decide to try stand-up comedy, called *Lenny & Hula Hoop*.





# LILLIE COIT GARDENS

## PRESERVING A LEGACY SITE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

by Joe Cohen, Gerry Crowley, and Howard Wong

Atop Telegraph Hill, an iconic vista stops tourists and residents in their tracks every day. Many who gaze at this spectacular cityscape have no idea that the weed-filled vacant site at 115 Telegraph Hill Boulevard is slated for development. A group of private citizens hope to change that future. They are dedicated to raising funds for the purchase of 115 Telegraph Hill Boulevard, keeping the dream of public open space alive and offering alternatives to the property owners—including an opportunity to bequeath a priceless legacy to future generations.

San Franciscans have a long tradition of enriching our city and neighborhoods through philanthropy and steadfast wisdom. In 1876, private citizens purchased the uppermost lots on Telegraph Hill and donated them to San Francisco as Pioneer Park. In 1929, Lillie Hitchcock Coit's bequest provided funds for Coit Tower and the Firemen's Sculpture in Washington Square. In 1996, the Telegraph Hill Dwellers and private citi-

zens started the Pioneer Park Project—a public/private partnership that funded the new Filbert/Greenwich stairways and South Terrace at Coit Tower. Throughout the country and world, iconic scenic parks originated under the aegis of citizens: Kerry Park in Seattle, Pittock Mansion in Portland, and Griffith Park in Los Angeles, to name just a few. Sweeping scenic outlooks make many great cities even more remarkable: Parc De Belleville in Paris, Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence, Santuario della Madonna di Monte Berico in Vicenza.

Private benefactors and financial expertise will be paramount to the campaign. Our group will also explore public/private partnerships that combine diverse funding strategies. Options include simple purchase, loans, land swaps, lot pooling, transferable development rights, conservation easements, tax incentives, fee credits/waivers, and bequests.

Right now, pending final permits, the developer is preparing for construction of four condominiums. But a win-win alternative would be a buy-out that offers a priceless legacy opportunity for the developer as well



Lillie Coit, painted by Francis Wolf.

FAMSF MUSEUM COLLECTION, FLORIDA GREEN



Passers-by stop here daily to admire the panoramic view through a chain-link fence.

PHOTO © C J VERBURG

as the citizenry. We'll need help to bolster these goals:

- Open lines of communication to the developer.
- Secure pledges of large donations to purchase the property.
- Endorsements to support this project by individuals and organizations.

A Lillie Coit Gardens would preserve iconic open space and world-class vistas at 115 Telegraph Hill Boulevard. Vacant for almost twenty years and taken for granted as de facto open space, millions of people can attest to the arresting beauty of the views from this site. On one point everyone is in agreement: this space is a rare gem that comes along maybe once in a lifetime. We have a responsibility to preserve it for future generations.

For information, input, and to endorse the project:

Website: [www.savecoittowerpark.com](http://www.savecoittowerpark.com)

Contacts: Joe Cohen [ccarriage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccarriage@sbcglobal.net), Gerry Crowley [gerrycrowley34@gmail.com](mailto:gerrycrowley34@gmail.com), Howard Wong [wongaia@aol.com](mailto:wongaia@aol.com)



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## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH JUNE OSTERBERG

By Mary Nelson

Many friends of the late June Osterberg knew her as an activist on North Beach's political front lines: demonstrating, testifying at hearings, writing letters and articles on important issues. When I was asked recently about working with her in the District 3 Democratic Club, I remembered our friendship and collaboration behind the scenes in the club's early days.

I must have met her ten years before, but I recall her at the crowded and serious meeting at Gerry Hurtado's apartment on the Kearny Steps to form the D3DC. It was a heady time because San Francisco was returning to district elections, as opposed to city-wide elections, for the Board of Supervisors. June was elected the club's first treasurer. Gerry was elected the first president, and the next year I was the second. June continued as treasurer.

People know June as a reporter, but she was also a skilled bookkeeper, with tiny mouse-writing in pencil on old-fashioned, green spreadsheet paper. She didn't cut corners. Her reports were long, detailed, and dry. She had files. She photocopied everything, all the checks and receipts, even the dollar bills that people paid their dues with. She had a mind for numbers, and cared very much. There were no excuses and none was ever needed.

In our minds, the administrative work was as important, if not as exciting, as the political work. Filling out reports for the Fair Political Practices Commission was our duty, but June made it fun. We met in old North Beach bars during quiet afternoons. At the New Pisa or Capp's Corner, Randy Harris or Seamus Coyle would set us up, then leave us to our makeshift office in the corner to do the work.

June had old-school manners and dedication. She taught me the moment of meaningful eye-contact when making a toast. We made way for incoming customers by moving over a few bar stools, cheerfully. "That's how we do it in North Beach," she'd say. When I'd thank her for the time working together, she'd reply with a smile in sing-song Norwegian, "Ing-en-ting or tak-ke fer"—"there's nothing to thank me for!"

I can still hear her voice on her phone recording: "This is June—sorry I missed your call . . ." and then at the end, her phone number, "781-ten-forty-five."



June and gang protesting the No Dig Tunnel to North Beach.

PHOTO © DENNIS HEARNE



# A LOVE LETTER TO NO

by Geri Koepfel

Have you ever wondered what’s going on behind that crisp gray storefront below Broadway on Kearny Street? North Beach Citizens bills itself as a resource center for homeless and low-income residents to “use as a base and a starting point to rebuild their lives and reconnect with their community.” But get to know the people who work there, their clients, and the people who support the mission in so many ways, and you quickly see it’s an oasis of hope and love.

I started volunteering there last fall, writing for its blog and social media and taking photos documenting events. I thought it would be a good way to use my skills to give back while I hunted for my next opportunity. I have found it’s helped me maybe more than I’ve helped the group.

Whenever my spirits get low, I go to North Beach Citizens. The optimism is overwhelming. I meet people who have little more than a duffel bag or backpack of belongings; people who have suffered physical and emotional trauma. Yet they’re sure today will be a better day than yesterday. They’re grateful for everything they have, whether it’s a hot meal, a cup of coffee, a new coat, or dry socks. It’s made me a more thankful person, and has helped me put petty battles into perspective.

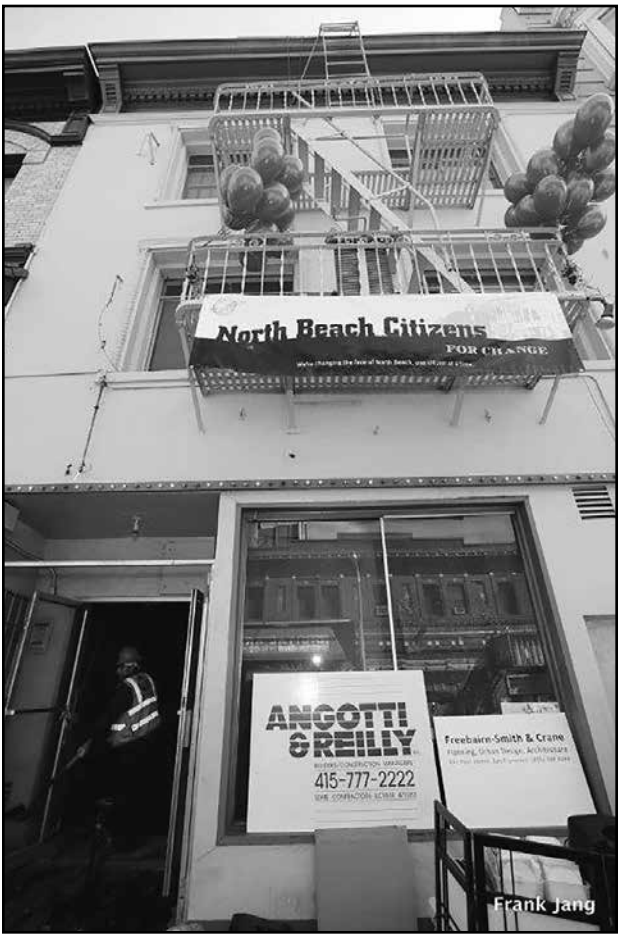
Most importantly, it’s made me a more giving, loving person. If you’re tired of hearing and reading about horrible, selfish people, you may be refreshed by North Beach Citizens. It demonstrates that selflessness and compassion still exist. And it starts with every single one of us.



Welcome to North Beach Citizens! PHOTO © C J VERBURG

## What Is North Beach Citizens?

Francis Ford Coppola and other area residents and merchants came together in 2000 to discuss the rise



Celebrating the move from Columbus to bigger quarters on Kearny Street. PHOTO © FRANK JANG

of homelessness in the neighborhood, and the center officially began in 2001. The staff of seven, including executive director Kristie Fairchild, help about 300 people each year with everything from navigating the bureaucracy of social services to finding permanent housing.

North Beach Citizens is entirely community-supported. Its donors are generous with clothing, food and money (more about that in a bit), and the clients, once they get help, give back as well. They help clean the center regularly and mentor newer clients just getting their footing. Each week, clients clean Washington Square Park and sweep sidewalks in exchange for a Safeway gift card with a nominal amount on it. By helping people experiencing homelessness, North Beach Citizens isn’t just giving a handout—it creates stronger a neighborhood overall.

## Who Are “The Homeless”?

When people talk about “the homeless,” stereotypes abound. First, nobody is “homeless” as a baseline characteristic; people lose their homes for a variety of reasons. In San Francisco’s current economy, once you fall off the grid, it can be next to impossible to get back on. Stop by North Beach Citizens some morning and chat with the clients there. You’ll meet people like Will, who lived off of his bike for more than 25 years, using his savvy and recycling used goods to get by. And Dianna, who was sexually abused as a child and during her three decades on the streets. Now, she’s ecstatic over her new dentures and loves to flash that sparkling smile that gets me every time.

Others are relatively new to the streets, like Scott. He was a wealthy entrepreneur who hobnobbed with the rich and famous, but lost everything a few months ago after his mom got sick, and then he started having serious health problems.

Contrary to popular belief, not everyone on the street is on drugs or mentally ill. About a third of those experiencing homelessness have mental illness, but it’s often (understandably) depression and anxiety. True, I’ve met some people at North Beach Citizens and living outside who are probably incapable of holding even a menial job due to mental issues, but they still deserve empathy and care.

## What Do Homeless People Need?

Of course, they need somewhere to live, and North Beach Citizens does its best to make that happen. Veterans, the elderly, and the disabled are at the top of the list when it comes to finding a permanent place, but



George & Pamela Hamel envision NBC’s new home with Executive Director Kristie Fairchild. PHOTO © FRANK JANG





# NORTH BEACH CITIZENS



NBC can't wait for finishing touches to get the new space up and running.

PHOTO © FRANK JANG

due to a tornado of political, social and financial complexities, it's not possible for everyone.

Meanwhile, if you see folks on the street, one of the best things you can do is smile and say hello. Loneliness and being treated like a pariah are two of the hardest things about street life, I'm told. Buy them a wrapped sandwich or fruit if you like, or give them some socks. Please don't give them your leftovers. Would you want your child, your sibling, your parent eating someone else's garbage? I sure wouldn't.

If you truly want to help, support a worthy non-profit like North Beach Citizens. Every year, over 90 percent of its \$1 million annual budget comes from its events. The bulk of that is from its Spring Dinner, in the basement of SS. Peter and Paul Church. This year

it's on April 23; see the Bulletin Board listing on p. 13.

Tickets are \$175 per person and up, and almost all of that is tax-deductible. You see the entire cast of North Beach characters along with a veritable "who's who" of the city's business and political circles. Mr. Coppola and his family are there, too, and sometimes his colleague George Lucas, though people are cool about it and don't mob them for selfies.

Another fun event which just started last year, for all you oenophiles, is the Judgment of Paris on March 3 in the penthouse of the tony Battery Club. This year's re-creation of the famous blind tasting between French and Napa Cabernets will feature Burgundy and Pinot Noir instead. At \$1,250 a ticket, it's not for your average Two-Buck Chuck drinker, but it features about \$40,000 in top-shelf wines. The goal is to be a "friendraiser" rather than a fundraiser, though last year it netted \$25,000.

If you can't attend an event, please consider North Beach Citizens in your annual donations. They're always happy to get gently used clothing and new volunteers!

For more information visit the website: <http://www.northbeachcitizens.org/>

Also recommended: Gary Kamiya's "Can a Miniscule Nonprofit Help San Francisco Win Its War on Homelessness?" in *San Francisco Magazine*, June 2016: <http://www.modernluxury.com/san-francisco/story/can-minuscule-nonprofit-help-san-francisco-win-its-war-homelessness>

"Stories Behind the Fog" on Medium.com includes first-person stories from people experiencing homelessness throughout the city: <https://storiesbehindthefog.com>

**North Beach Citizens**  
1034 Kearny St.  
(415) 772-0918



Volunteers from Wells Fargo and other local companies are a cornerstone of NBC.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH BEACH CITIZENS.



It takes many hands (and paws) to keep NBC humming.

PHOTO © C J VERBURG



Medivation Inc. volunteers work with clients to make the holiday season bright.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH BEACH CITIZENS.



Stringing popcorn makes a change of pace for Wells Fargo volunteers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH BEACH CITIZENS.



On a rainy morning, NBC offers a cozy sanctuary.

PHOTO © C J VERBURG



# A BLUE SPARROW AT HOME ON THE HILL

by Carolyn Miller

When Holly Furgason alighted on Telegraph Hill ten years ago, she was captivated by this unexpected piece of the natural world in an urban setting. Furgason was living in the Mission and managing a Pilates studio there when she started teaching private lessons on the Hill. Its many trees and birds, its air and light and views of the bay, were so different from her own neighborhood—and Oakland, where she was attending Mills College—that she decided to open her own studio on upper Grant Avenue.

Furgason chose the name and logo for Blue Sparrow



Holly and her dog, Hazel, often cross paths with the local coyote. PHOTO BY LYNN KLOYTHANOMSUP OF ARCHITECTURAL BLACK

Pilates to symbolize her love of the water and of nature. The invented blue sparrow is also a reminder that birds were often the first sign of land to sailors nearing port after a long sea journey.

With her striking blue eyes, vivid red hair, radiant skin, and dancer's body, Furgason is a living advertisement for the good health and agility her profession promotes. She has built up a devoted local following at her studio in North Beach, which draws clients from other neighborhoods as well.

Furgason started dancing at the age of five, in tap and ballet. She went on to take contemporary and modern dance at the University of Michigan. During a summer dance intensive she was introduced to Pilates, a mind-body exercise system popular with dancers for both preventing and recovering from injuries.

After graduating from Mills with a degree in choreography and performance, Furgason's bags were packed for a move to New York to audition with dance companies. The 9/11 attacks came three days before her departure date. Eventually she relocated to Southern California, near her parents, instead. There she worked at Riverside Community College teaching web design and took classes in their Pilates program, which convinced her to become an instructor in that field.

This physical-conditioning method was developed in the early 1900s by Joseph Pilates, who suffered from asthma and rickets as a child, to help strengthen his body and to recover from injuries sustained in his career as a professional boxer. As a German soldier interned in England during World War I, he used his method to help heal his injured compatriots. Later, he worked at a hospital on the Isle of Man, where he made and equipped hospital beds with metal springs and leather straps to help rehabilitate patients—prototypes of the Pilates equipment used today. He emigrated to New York in 1926 during the heyday of George Balanchine and Martha Graham, where he found that his method



was just as effective for dancers as for hospital patients.

Furgason, who has recently opened a second studio in Oakland, is devoted to helping to train instructors in her field through her blog ([fit4real.com](http://fit4real.com)) and a book she's writing. Most of her clients are people who want to gain both strength and mobility to counter physical problems developed over the years. A new category of clients includes millennials in the tech community who spend most of their day and sometimes their nights sitting at a computer, developing physical problems that people don't usually acquire until later in life. Furgason believes that Pilates, which works with the body's deep muscles to align joints that can become misaligned through habit over time, can change lives. "You can change your whole attitude when you don't have pain and aren't limited by injury," she says. "Even after doing just one session a week for only a few months, there's a lifting of physical confidence, in the feeling that you're capable of doing many new things." It might almost be like taking flight.



## WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REPORT

by Jon Golinger, Committee Chair  
[jon.golinger@thd.org](mailto:jon.golinger@thd.org)

Ever since San Francisco voters overwhelmingly approved the Waterfront Height Limit Right to Vote Act (Proposition B) in June 2014, the State Lands Commission has been suing the City over control of this valuable real estate. That lawsuit—backed by former San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom—is now heading for trial.

The State Lands Commission, which regulates California tidelands, comprises three state officials: Lieutenant Governor Newsom, State Controller Betty Yee, and Michael Cohen, Governor Brown's Director of Finance. Their lawsuit against San Francisco has profound implications for local control over waterfront protection, not just here but statewide. In the first place, it seeks to nullify San Franciscans' right to vote on proposals that aim to raise the existing waterfront height limits for development projects, as Prop. B requires. In addition, it argues that the court should eliminate all local control of waterfront zoning, regulation, and public safety laws in San Francisco and the other 80 California cities and counties along the coast that include tidelands within their borders. If the suit succeeds, it would eliminate the voters' voice in all waterfront matters, and would prohibit any Planning Commission, City Council, or Board of Supervisors along California's coast from regulating development, public safety, or health issues on waterfront lands located within their communities.

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera and his office have vigorously defended the People of San

## LAWSUIT TO UNDO SF WATERFRONT PROTECTIONS HEADS TO TRIAL

Francisco against this lawsuit since it was filed over two and a half years ago. Following the failure of settlement negotiations, the State Lands Commission decided in December not to drop the lawsuit and to proceed to trial. The case is scheduled for a Summary Judgment Hearing before Judge Suzanne Bolanos in San Francisco Superior Court on May 31, 2017 and for trial on September 11, 2017. In the meantime, Prop. B and San Francisco's waterfront protections will remain in effect.

### Opposition to Pier 29 Mini-Mall Expands Citywide

As reported in the Summer 2016 Semaphore ("No Mall On the Waterfront"), the Port of San Francisco is attempting to give real estate developer Jamestown, LP a 15-year lease to build a mini-mall inside Pier 29, instead of pursuing the shorter-term lease and mixed-use recreation project called for in the Waterfront Land Use Plan. Over the last few months, the coalition urging the Port to drop the mini-mall proposal has expanded citywide. The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, the Sunset Parkside Education and Action Committee, the Sierra Club, and the Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant Association have all joined THD to oppose this proposal. A Sierra Club letter to the Port states: "The Sierra Club urges the Port Commission to respect the current community based Waterfront Land Use Plan Review process and instead of undermining the Waterfront Land Use Review process by approving this controversial project which conflicts with the Plan the Port should allow the Waterfront Land Use Plan

Review process to proceed." If the Port chooses to move forward with the Jamestown Pier 29 project despite community objections, it will face a battle when it goes before the Board of Supervisors for approval to extend the lease term to 15 years.

### Waterfront Land Use Plan Review

In the wake of a decade of controversial, failed waterfront development projects such as the Mills Mall at Piers 27-31, the Broadway-Embarcadero Hotel, and the 8 Washington luxury high-rise, the Port has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Waterfront Land Use Plan. The Plan was created after San Francisco voters passed Proposition H in 1990, putting a moratorium on new waterfront development until the Port adopted a Plan to establish a vision for the waterfront and to guide land use decisions. Longtime THD leader Nan Roth was a member of the Waterfront Plan Advisory Board that crafted the original Waterfront Plan.

Prop. H also required that the Waterfront Plan be reviewed and updated every five years. This has never happened until now. Throughout 2017, the Waterfront Plan Working Group (on which I sit) is meeting to discuss the current provisions of the Waterfront Land Use Plan and propose changes to build on past successes, avoid future failures, and adapt for major new challenges such as sea level rise and seismic risks.

All Waterfront Plan Review meetings are open to the public, and members of the community are encouraged to attend and participate in public comment. Get more information and find out dates for upcoming meetings at: [www.sfport.com/waterfront-plan-update](http://www.sfport.com/waterfront-plan-update)







## PARKS, TREES, & BIRDS REPORT

by Carlo Arreglo, Committee Co-chair  
carlo.arreglo@thd.org

**T**his Valentine issue of the Semaphore is a great time for the Parks, Trees, and Birds report to delve into the romantic lives of birds.

There are quite a few bird species that, once they get together, mate for life. A well-known example here in North Beach is the widespread and spectacular Red-tailed Hawk. During the spring breeding season, Red-tailed Hawks can be seen flying over Telegraph Hill, Washington Square Park, the Financial District, and many other parts of the city. And they don't just lazily ride thermals. As part of their courtship displays, you may see Red-tailed Hawks dropping their legs instead of neatly tucking them against their bodies. But their most eye-popping behavior is a wing-pumping ascent followed by a steep, sharp dive, sometimes locking talons and plummeting toward the earth before pulling away.

Less easy to spot are Anna's Hummingbirds, which only weigh about as much as a nickel. These hummers are commonly seen around the Hill making a circuit of their favorite flowers and feeders. What they lack in size, they make up for in boisterous, noisy courtship displays. You've probably seen this during spring on the Hill. A hummingbird goes straight up in the air, maybe 100 feet, and then dives, rapidly pulling out to trace a sort of "J" in midair and emitting a sharp squeak. This air show is performed by the males and actually starts with the male hovering above the female before launching into his courtship sequence of dives and squeaks, which are produced by air being forced through his tail feathers. And to make himself even more attractive to his potential mate, the male dives with his iridescent throat centered at the female's line of sight. Unlike a Red-tailed Hawk, though, a male Anna's Hummingbird has a wandering eye—he'll mate with as many females as he can.

Ornithomancy, an ancient Greek practice of divination based on bird behavior, was used as omens to predict the future. On Valentine's Day, take note of the first bird you see. That hawk, parrot, starling, rock dove, or hummingbird might give you a glimpse into your future partner! ✂



PHOTOS © ALAN HOPKINS



## TREASURER'S REPORT

by Joe Luttrell, Treasurer  
treasurer@thd.org

**A**s readers of this column are aware, THD operates on a fiscal year (rather than a calendar year), from April 1 to March 31. As I write this, we are two-thirds through the year that started on April 1, 2016.

The budget adopted by the Board at its May 2016 meeting proposed essentially a break-even year, with revenues and expenses of about \$30,000. The assumptions are that dues and revenues will remain constant, as will costs for the Semaphore, and that income and expense for social and arts and culture events will be equal. So far this has proved true, and THD remains in a modestly healthy fiscal state, with a net profit through November 30 of just over \$300. ✂

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## FOURTH QUARTER BOARD MEETING SUMMARIES

by Stan Hayes, President  
stan.hayes@thd.org

### October 11, 2016

Stan Hayes reported to the board on topics that included the opening of a neighborhood-serving Cole Hardware store in the former Rossi's Market space, and status updates on the proposed construction management plan for the 115 Telegraph Hill Boulevard multi-unit condominium project, proposals to extend closing hours of two strip clubs on Broadway from 2 AM to 4 AM, the 88 Broadway affordable housing project, the Teatro ZinZanni theater/hotel project, and MTA's update of the residential parking permit program.

The upcoming November publication of the next Semaphore issue was discussed, followed by a hearty thank you from the board to Semaphore Editor Carol Verburg and all who worked on the issue.

Other committee reports were made and discussed, including Social & Program (upcoming fall social event

in conjunction with the launch of Carol Verburg's new book, upcoming Holiday Party in December), Communications (THD's new updated website and target go-live date), Art & Culture (upcoming neighborhood ballot party at North Beach Bauhaus to discuss November 2016 ballot measures and propositions, led by Supervisor Peskin), Budget (near on-track status of finances, maximization of interest income for THD funds), Parks, Trees, & Birds (Friends of Washington Square Park meeting, design and construction of Washington Square Playground), Planning & Zoning (discussion of a number of topics, including proposed amendments to the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District), Membership (status of current membership, new members), and Waterfront (ongoing Waterfront Plan update, sea-level risk threat to Embarcadero historic district).

After discussion during the meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to support THD-proposed amendments to the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District / North Beach Special Use District as part of the Planning Department's reorganizing and restructuring of Article 7 of the Planning Code in order to preserve, clarify, and strengthen the existing commercial district regulations.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the board to sponsor a half-table at the Coalition of SF Neighborhood's annual fundraising dinner.

The board meeting was adjourned in memory of Rose Pak.

### November 15, 2016

Stan Hayes reported to the board on topics that included community workshops on the Planning Department's proposed Urban Design Guidelines, proposed General Plan amendments affecting the allowed concentration of eating and drinking establishments, and updates on the status of proposals to extend the closing hours of two Broadway strip clubs from 2 AM to 4 AM, the 115 Telegraph Hill Boulevard condominium project, the Teatro ZinZanni theater/hotel project,

the 88 Broadway affordable housing project, the proposed Jamestown retail project on Pier 29, residential permit parking program changes under consideration by SFMTA, incorrect listing of THD as an endorser of the proposed Piazza as currently proposed, and THD's call for redesign of the proposed Piazza to avoid closure of Vallejo Street.

Committee reports were made and discussed, including the Semaphore (successful publication of the Fall 2016 issue, topics for Winter 2017 issue), Communications (status and discussion of updated website), Planning & Zoning (several issues, including THD-proposed Article 7 amendments, Urban Design Guideline community workshops on revised proposal), Budget (status of finances, good job managing expenses, continued discussion of interest income maximization for THD funds), Social & Program (success of book launch event, upcoming Holiday Party), Art & Culture (success of joint events, upcoming legacy personalities event), Membership (current status of membership), Parks, Trees, & Birds (Friends of Washington Square Park meeting, design and construction of Washington Square Playground), and Waterfront (various waterfront issues, including wayfinding signage at Pier 27 and ongoing update to Waterfront Plan).

After discussion, it was the consensus of the board that the Treasurer seek higher interest income by transferring THD funds to a higher-interest rate insured savings account, as proposed by the Treasurer.

### December 2016

The board did not meet during December, per its usual practice. The board has ten regular monthly meetings during the year, usually on the second Tuesday of the month. The board does not meet during August or December.

During the Business Meeting portion of the Holiday Party, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that the board and membership of THD wish everyone Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year in 2017.



President Stan Hayes wishes everyone Happy Holidays on behalf of THD. PHOTO BY MARY ANN SCANLAN



# SEMAPHORE BULLETIN BOARD

## Open SF History Event

A multimedia exhibit, presentation, reading and discussion of our photographic and oral histories, part of an ongoing, neighborhood-specific series offered by [opensfhistory.org](http://opensfhistory.org).  
Sunday, February 12, 2-5 PM. Canessa Art Gallery, 708 Montgomery Street.



## Free Job Search meetings

that can jumpstart your job search or get you out of the career doldrums  
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## North Beach Citizens' 16th Annual Italian Spring Dinner Fundraiser — April 23, 2017

What: North Beach Citizens' 16th Italian Spring Dinner Fundraiser  
This event raises awareness and funding for North Beach Citizens, a non-profit that provides real and lasting solutions for San Francisco's homeless population (see p. 8-9)  
Who: Hosted by Honorary Chair, Francis Ford Coppola, Honorary Co-hosts, Jeannette Etheredge and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and Neighborhood Host, Janine Moss.  
When: Sunday, April 23, 2017; 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Where: SS Peter and Paul Church, 666 Filbert Street, San Francisco.  
Tickets: Start at \$175 for a single adult.  
Buy tickets at <http://www.northbeachcitizens.org/events/> or call 415-772-0918.



## North Beach Citizens' Judgment of Paris — California vs. France Wine Tasting

What: North Beach Citizens presents The Judgment of Paris -- an exclusive California vs. France Wine Tasting Fundraiser to celebrate the historic 1976 Paris tasting that put California winemakers on the map. Proceeds benefit North Beach Citizens, a non-profit that provides real and lasting solutions for San Francisco's homeless population (see p. 8-9).  
When: Friday, March 3, 2017; 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Where: The Battery, 717 Battery Street, San Francisco  
Who: The event is hosted by Michael and Xochi Birch, tech entrepreneurs and founders of The Battery.  
Tickets: \$950 per person before February 10th; \$1,250 per person thereafter.  
To buy tickets go to: <http://www.northbeachcitizens.org/events/> or contact North Beach Citizens at 415-772-0918 ext. 107.

## Grow Your Comfort Zone

Ever considered helping the homeless in a safe and friendly environment?  
Why not join us for one of our monthly dinners at SS. Peter and Paul Church?  
Dinners are held at 5:00 p.m. the final Sunday of each month. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 3:30, and we also suggest you contact us first to let us know you are planning to help.  
Email or call Marc Bruno, 415-421-0809 (Church), or, [marcabruno@yahoo.com](mailto:marcabruno@yahoo.com).  
Thanks for all you do for those in need!



## Noontime Concerts

"San Francisco's Musical Lunch Break"  
FREE classical performances by outstanding local and international artists  
Every Tuesday, 12:30-1:15 (approximately)  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral, corner of California and Grant  
Admission is free; please make a \$5 donation if you can.  
<http://noontimeconcerts.org/>



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

North Beach Citizens welcomes volunteers and donations!  
We are a community based non-profit organization that utilizes the strength of the neighborhood to effectively address the needs of homeless and low-income citizens through an innovative collaboration of residents, merchants, police, and service providers.  
If you haven't stopped by lately, come visit our new headquarters at 1034 Kearny.  
For hours, directions, and all other information:  
<http://www.northbeachcitizens.org/>  
(415) 772-0918



## North Beach First Fridays

Stroll down Columbus Avenue on the first Friday evening of each month to see what's new in the neighborhood.  
From 6 to 9 PM you'll find an open-house welcome at art galleries, boutiques, and local watering holes, as well as pop-ups and cultural events.  
Remind yourself how much fun it is to live in such a vibrant corner of the world by rediscovering the thriving local art scene while you support the creative community behind it.  
Events vary from month to month, so check the North Beach First Fridays website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed for the latest openings, closings, and events.



## HELP BEAUTIFY AND PROTECT THE CHARACTER OF TELEGRAPH HILL

Please consider making a lasting commitment to the neighborhood you love. Include Telegraph Hill Dwellers Gift Planning Project in your estate planning.  
  
Contact Jon Golinger for information: (415) 531-8585 or [jon.golinger@thd.org](mailto:jon.golinger@thd.org)



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**AWESOME BREAKFASTS & LUNCHES**



# A NEW TRIBUTE TO AN OLD FRIEND

by Ken Maley

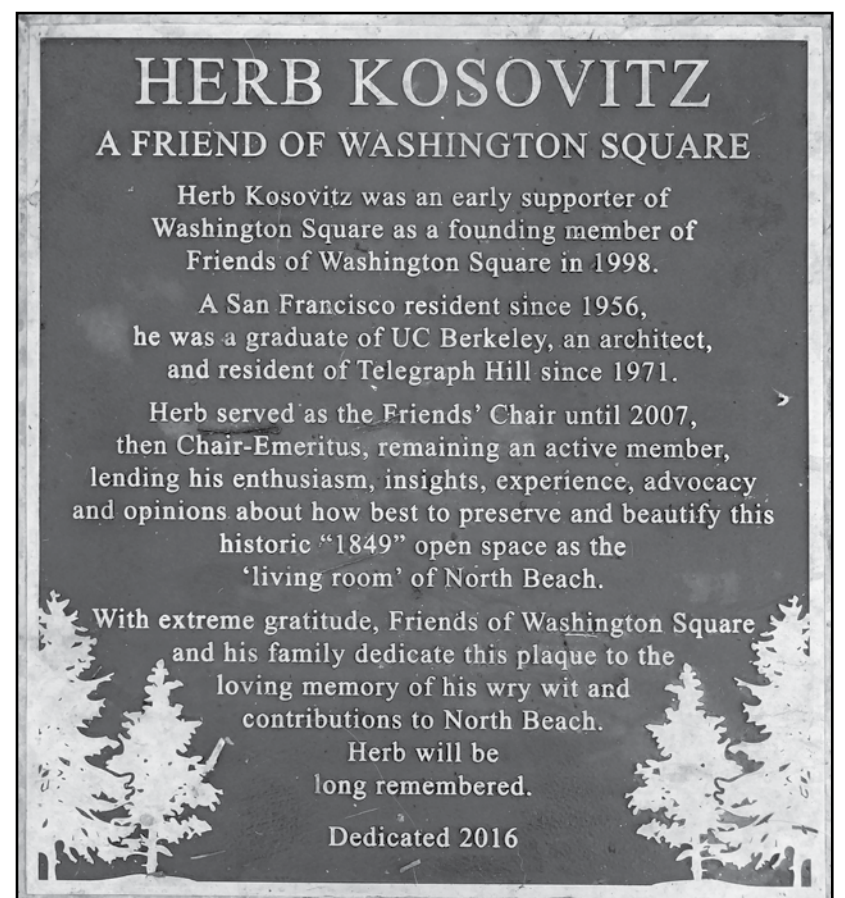
After several months of planning, designing, and negotiating with City departments, a bronze plaque was installed on December 1 in the Union Street sidewalk honoring Friends of Washington Square co-founder Herb Kosovitz. Herb passed away in 2014 after living in San Francisco since the 1950s, and was an active, devoted, and vocal supporter addressing the many needs of the Square.

His first effort, in the late 1990s, was to lobby and organize better lighting—much needed as the Square was quite forbidding to walk through at night. From this effort, Friends of Washington Square was born.

Three generations of of Herb's family from around the Bay Area and many neighborhood friends and colleagues attended the plaque dedication, then retired to Original Joe's for drinks and memories. Many observed Herb would not have said he wanted such an acknowledgement, most likely complaining "people will walk all over me, and dogs will pee on me." But still, most surmised he would have loved it.

As gay men we shared a personal connection beyond our commitment to the Square, which I enjoyed and will miss. Herb had a great wit and suffered no fools. He often goaded me about my constantly wearing shorts—regardless of the season. He once asked me if I even owned a pair of long pants. So I wore long pants to the dedication in his memory.

The bronze plaque is located in the Union Street sidewalk slightly east of Columbus at the first entrance to the Square. It was sponsored and supported by Friends of Washington Square and by the generous contributions of Herb's friends, especially June Fraps. Sincere thanks to Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Director Mohammed Nuru of the Department of Public Works, and the Recreation and Park Department which waived fees and regulations for the installation (a fine job by Carla Short and her colleagues).



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- J.T., recent Telegraph Hill client

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- L.R.

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- A.A.

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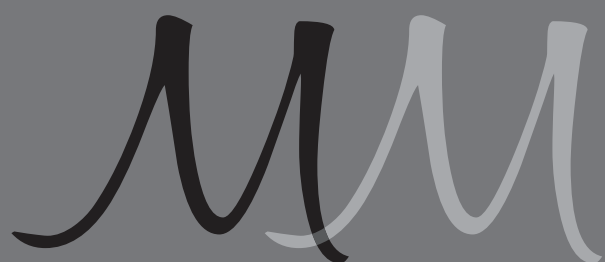
- J. O.

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Neighbors and family members gather to dedicate the plaque in Washington Square Park.

PHOTO © CRAIG HECKMAN


### Kosovitz Plaque

*continued from page 14*

Herb's friends and family are organizing donations in his memory to Friends of Washington Square. Checks are tax deductible and should be made out to Parks Alliance Donations, with a memo line: 7213 Herb Kosovitz. Mail to the Parks Alliance, 1663 Mission Street, Suite 320 San Francisco CA 94103.



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### STANDING COMMITTEES

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Budget: Joe Luttrell (Chair) Contact Joe at [joe.luttrell@thd.org](mailto:joe.luttrell@thd.org)  
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Contact Michael at [michael.pedroni@thd.org](mailto:michael.pedroni@thd.org) or Howard at [howard.wong@thd.org](mailto:howard.wong@thd.org)  
Parks, Trees, & Birds: Carlo Arreglo & Judy Irving (Co-Chairs)  
Contact Carlo at [carlo.arreglo@thd.org](mailto:carlo.arreglo@thd.org) or Judy at [judy.irving@thd.org](mailto:judy.irving@thd.org)  
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Waterfront: Jon Golinger (Chair) Contact Jon at [jon.golinger@thd.org](mailto:jon.golinger@thd.org)

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE MEETS last Thursdays.  
Call for time and location. 986-7070, 563-3494, or 391-5652.

### LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Central Police District Community Advisory Board: Daryl Babbitt  
Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods: Paul Webber  
Friends of Washington Square Liaison: Marilee Gaffney  
Neighborhood Network Liaison: Gerry Crowley  
Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group Member: Jon Golinger

## FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON SQUARE

Meet on the 2nd Tuesday every month, with work parties in the  
Square every quarter.

See website for times, dates, locations.

[www.friendsofWASHINGTONsquare.com](http://www.friendsofWASHINGTONsquare.com)



## TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

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**There's no better way to be connected to your neighborhood and be a voice of the hill than by joining Telegraph Hill Dwellers, today.**

Join at [THD.org](http://THD.org). If you'd prefer to have a brochure and sign-up form mailed to you, please send an email to [membership@thd.org](mailto:membership@thd.org). Already a member? Give one as a gift!

#### Membership includes:

- A one-year subscription to news & events via email and a quarterly paper, *The Semaphore*.
- Opportunities to be active in your community. Your passion likely aligns to one of many committees.
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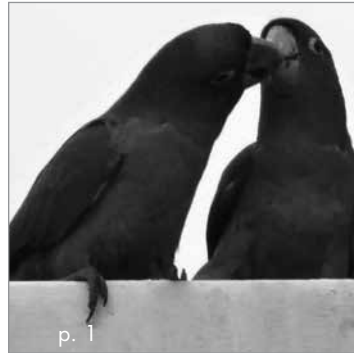
Individuals..... \$35  
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Seniors (65 and older)..... \$25  
Senior Households..... \$40

Join now or give the gift of membership at [THD.org](http://THD.org) or email [membership@thd.org](mailto:membership@thd.org).





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# THE SEMAPHORE

#216

Winter 2017

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OUR 2017 VALENTINE TO THE HILL